USO funds for rural telecom infrastructure

2109. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre proposes to fund telecom companies to create telecom infrastructure in rural India from the Universal Service Obligation fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of creation of rural telecom infrastructure in Orissa under the above project and how far this will help improve rural connectivity in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) A proposal is under active consideration of the Government to provide support for shareable infrastructure to the eligible access service providers and infrastructure service providers for providing cellular mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country including such areas in Orissa. Consultations have been held with the Access Service Providers, Infrastructure Providers, Association of Telecom Service Providers and Manufacturers in this regard. To enable such support, a bill to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 is proposed to be introduced during the Budget Session, 2006.

Dues of private telecom companies

2110. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private telecom companies owe huge amount to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how and when Government propose to recover the dues from those operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Details of license fee outstanding against private telecom companies as on 28-02-2006 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below)

(c) The outstandings are mainly on account of disputes raised by the private telecom companies on amounts determined as payable. In several cases, there are disputes before various forums like Courts and Tribunals where recovery is held up due to stay orders. In a few cases the operators are under liquidation. There is a regular follow up with the private telecom companies for the payment of outstanding dues. The steps taken by the Government for recovery of outstanding dues from the companies include reminders, invocation of available Bank Guarantees, arbitration proceedings and follow up with the official liquidators. Suspension and cancellation of the licenses as per license agreements have also been resorted to in some cases.

Statement

Details of License Fee dues outstanding in respect of private Telecom Companies as on 28.02.2006

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of Licensee	Service	Due outstanding
1	2	3	4
1.	BPL Mobiles Comm. Ltd.	CMTS	290,000,000
2.	Koshika Telecom	CMTS	4,530,000,000
3.	Spice Comm. Ltd.	CMTS	105,577,435
4.	Archana	E-Mail	2,073,333
5.	Business India	E-Mail	1,000,000
6.	Dataline	E-Mail	2,064,549
7.	Datapro	E-Mail	1,550,000
8.	Elnet Technology Ltd.	E-Mail	756,666
9.	ICNET Ltd.	E-Mail	3,025,000
10.	Data Access Ltd.	ILD	156,356,675
11.	VSNL	ILD	490,034,454

1	2	3	4
12.	Tata Power Co.	IP-II	562,113
13.	Reliance Inforcomm Ltd.	NLD	171,315
14.	Jet AIU Skyline Transport Pvt. Ltd.	PMRTS	2,601
15.	Arvind Mills Ltd.	PMRTS	3,325,789
16.	Mobilkom Ltd.	PMRTS	67,631
17.	ABC Communication India Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	193,890,861
18.	Beltron Telecomm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	197,818
19.	BPL Systems & Project Ltd.	Radio Paging	3,156,630
20.	D.S.S. Mobile Comm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	103,824,000
21.	Easycall Comm (India) Ltd.	Radio Paging	48,109,834
22.	Elder PWI Comm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	86,174,483
23.	Elder PWI Paging Service	Radio Paging	173,250,000
24.	Matrix Paging (India) Ltd.	Radio Paging	104,195,583
25.	Microwave Comm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	184,095,854
26.	Modi Korea Telecomm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	245,747,755
27.	Netherland India Comm. Enterprise	Radio Paging	107,735,619
28.	Punwire Mobile Communications	Radio Paging	4,609,757,711
29.	Punwire paging service	Radio Paging	818,990,450
30.	RPG paging services Ltd.	Radio Paging	160,648,661
31.	Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	21,980,000
32.	Reliance Infocomm. Ltd.	UASL	8,959,111
33.	Microwave	V-Mail	18,439,433
34.	Dataline and Research	VSAT	10,000,000
35.	HECL	VSAT	386,566,423
36.	Marcsat	VSAT	17,400,000
37.	Satnet Telecom	VSAT	11,100,000
	TOTAL:		12,900,787,787